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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
24 March 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: "Interview" with Fidel Castro Published in  
Le Monde (Second Installment)

1. The second and last installment of Claude Julien's "interview" with Fidel Castro was published in the 23 March edition of Le Monde. This section was not quite as newsworthy as the first and was not treated with the sensationalism that the first section got from the international news agencies. Nevertheless, there was one portion in which Castro bitterly criticized the subservience of the Soviet satellites and roundly declared that he will be no satellite.

2. He stated that of all the Communists and "revolutionaries throughout the world," only the Venezuelans came to Cuba's support during last fall's missile crisis. "The great parties which claim to be revolutionary did not budge," he said. The satellite parties lauded Khrushchev for "saving the peace" when he withdrew the missiles without consulting Cuba. Even when Khrushchev criticizes abstract painting, the "local satellites asked me to forbid abstract painting. And I told him that our opponents are capitalism and imperialism, not the abstract painters." Castro went on to state that abstract painting will continue to be encouraged in Cuba. He stated that some of the painting based on "peoples' art" theories are "a real insult to art as well as to the people..."

3. Moscow has reacted to the publication of the "interview" by noting in Pravda statements from

Castro's refutation of the interview, but limiting these statements to Castro's declarations of undying friendship for the USSR and Khrushchev. The Pravda article made no reference to Castro's denial that he had ever made any statement about Khrushchev in "an unfriendly manner".

4. Despite Castro's denials, we have no reason to doubt that Castro made these statements to Julien. They are characteristic and in keeping with what is known of Castro's temperament and his anger over the Soviet missile pullout last fall.